[English]

Gauge Conversion

1478. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Nizamabad metre gauge line and allocation of more funds for Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad new broad gauge rail line were accepted and included in the Railway Budget for 1997-98;

(b) if so, the main reasons for delay in taking up the above work immediately;

(c) whether Railways have been asked to take up the conversion of Secunderabad-Mudkhed metre gauge via Nizamabad;

(d) if so, the time by which the work on this line is likely to be started;

(e) the allocation made for laying Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad new broad gauge line during 1997-98;

(f) the progress made on the above rail line so far; and

(g) the time by which the above rail line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The work on Peddapalli-Karimnagar is in good progress. The work of Mudkhed-Nizamabad gauge conversion can be taken up only after the requisite clearances have been received. Action for obtaining the same is already in progress.

(e) Rs. 5.00 crores.

(f) 24%.

(g) By the end of the Tenth Plan period.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to Rural Development Agencies

1479. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any uniformity in the allocation of funds to the rural development agencies and Zila Parishads;

(b) if so, the average allocation of funds made to each rural development agency in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(c) whether the Union Government keep any control over income/expenditure of the rural development agency; and

(d) if so, the details of the procedure followed for monitoring the utilisation of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Central allocation of funds to States/UTs under various Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes is made on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country.

(b) These programmes are not being implemented in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) and (d) Various programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment are regularly monitored. The monitoring mechanism, interalia, consists of obtaining periodical progress reports/returns, financial returns/audit report, intensive field inspections, reviews and monitoring by Committees and by senior officers with the State Secretaries, Commissioners etc. Besides, the Government monitors and reviews implementation of programmes in various States through Central Level Co-ordination Committees, State Level Co-ordination Committees and at district level by the Governing body of District Rural Development Agencies.

[English]

PBX at Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah

1480. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install a PBX at Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah and provide telephones in all rooms for the convenience of boarders; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Since installation of a PBX will involve telephone wiring for each room and entail heavy expenditure, two numbers PCO Booths of DOT (CCB Type) have been provided at each of the floors of Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah i.e. ground floor, first floor and second floor, for the convenience of the boarders.

Reservation to Passengers

1481. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that great difficulty is being experienced by the passengers particularly in the summer season in getting reservation inspite of running special trains;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide railway reservation to all passengers; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?